11. (Once Amended) A method of chassis measurement of a vehicle with a chassis measuring apparatus which comprises a vehicle lift platform with which a vehicle to be measured can be reversibly lifted and an axle measurement lifting device adjacent an end of the vehicle lift platform, wherein the axle measurement lifting device is operable to reversibly lift an axle measuring device, the method comprising:

carrying out a measuring operation after the vehicle to be measured has been driven on to the vehicle lift platform and after at least vertical alignment of an axle measuring unit of the axle measurement lifting device,

lifting the vehicle with the vehicle lift platform when a necessary chassis adjustment is detected, and

vertically displacing the axle measurement lifting device by means of a first lifting stage for vertical adjustment of the axle measuring unit and when the vehicle lift platform is raised, following the movement of the vehicle lift platform with the axle measuring unit by means of a second lifting stage.

REMARKS

I. Formal Matters

Applicant submits herewith a certified copy of the foreign application from which priority is claimed.

A new IDS is attached in accordance with the Examiner's request and the references have been re-submitted. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the references and initial and return the IDS.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Office Action alleges that the claims lack a structural relationship between the platform, the axle measuring unit, and the lifting device. The language of claim 1 has been amended to clarify the structural relationship. Specifically, the axle measurement lifting device is located adjacent an end of the vehicle lift platform. The axle measurement lifting device is provided for lifting the axle measuring unit. The invention of

claim 1 defines two separate lifting devices including the vehicle lift platform and the axle measurement lifting device, which is used for lifting the axle measuring unit. Applicant respectfully submits that all of claims 1-10 are clear and definite and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,256,894 to Naruse. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Naruse fails to disclose each and every feature of claim 1. Naruse discloses an alignment measuring device provided with a mounting tray 12. The mounting tray 12 is raised and lowered by a main lifting device 10. The main lifting device 10 includes only one lifting apparatus, which is in the form of a scissors configuration. A vehicle supporting tray is raised and lowered by a sub-lifting apparatus 14 that is supported on the mounting tray 12 as shown in Figure 4 and disclosed in column 15, lines 21-41.

In contrast to the invention of claim 1, Naruse does not disclose a vehicle lift platform and an axle measurement device adjacent an end of the vehicle lift platform. As set forth in claim 1, the vehicle lift platform reversibly lifts a vehicle. The axle measurement lifting device reversibly lifts the axle measuring unit. As set forth in claim 1, the vehicle lift platform and the axle measurement lifting device are separate from one another as the axle measurement lifting device is adjacent an end of the vehicle lift platform. Naruse further fails to disclose two lifting stages for the axle measurement lifting device as required by claim 1.

Because Naruse fails to disclose each and every feature of claim 1, Naruse fails to anticipate claim 1. Claims 2-4 and 8 depend from claim 1 and define further distinctive features of the invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5-7 and 9-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Naruse. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action states that Naruse fails to disclose the "specific driving means, a foundation, and a plate." The Office action also states that the driving means claimed by the applicant is nothing more than a design choice and that it is well known in the art to provide structures such as the foundation and the plate. Accordingly, the Office Action alleges that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the above-mentioned features in the device of Naruse. With regard to the method steps, the Office Action alleges that the method steps of claim 11 are met during normal operation of the Naruse device.

With respect to dependent claims 5-7, 9, and 10, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, if features such as the foundation and plate are well known in the art, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner produce references incorporating these features.

Although the Office Action has stated that claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, it has not stated which features are lacking and what modification would have been performed to arrive at the invention of claim 11. Claim 11 has been amended merely as to matters of form. As set forth above with respect to claim 1, Naruse fails to disclose an axle measurement lifting device for lifting the axle measuring unit and a vehicle lift platform for lifting a vehicle. These limitations are provided in the preamble of independent method claim 11. Furthermore, with respect to the method steps, Naruse fails to disclose at least the step of displacing the axle measurement lifting device vertically with a first lifting stage and following the movement of the vehicle lift platform by means of a second lifting stage.

With respect to dependent claims 12-14, these claims are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 11. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims in light of the amendments and the above comments. Should the Examiner believe that an interview would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made**."

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that are required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.19-2112 referencing NOHE.84679.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 3, 2003

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Once Amended) A chassis measuring apparatus for a vehicle, including

a vehicle lift platform for reversibly lifting a vehicle to be measured,

an axle measuring unit for measuring parameters of an axle of the vehicle,

an axle measurement lifting device adjacent an end of the vehicle lift platform, the axle measurement lifting device for reversibly lifting the axle measuring unit, the axle measurement lifting device comprising at least first and second lifting stages, and

means for actuating the lifting stages reversibly independently of each other.

11. (Once Amended) A method of chassis measurement of a vehicle with a chassis measuring apparatus which comprises a vehicle lift platform with which a vehicle to be measured can be reversibly lifted and an axle measurement lifting device adjacent an end of the vehicle lift platform, wherein the axle measurement lifting device is operable to reversibly lift [with which] an axle measuring device [can be reversibly lifted], the method comprising:

carrying out a measuring operation [wherein] after the vehicle to be measured has been driven on to the vehicle lift platform and after at least vertical alignment of an axle measuring unit of the axle [measuring] measurement lifting device[the measuring operation is carried out],

lifting the vehicle with the vehicle lift platform [wherein] when a necessary chassis adjustment is detected [the vehicle is lifted by means of the vehicle lift platform], and

vertically displacing [wherein] the axle measurement lifting device [is displaced vertically] by means of a first lifting stage for vertical adjustment of the axle measuring unit and when the vehicle lift platform is raised, following [the axle measuring unit follows] the movement of the vehicle lift platform with the axle measuring unit by means of a second lifting stage.